

# Counter-Depth Refrigerator Buying Guide

A step-by-step guide to find the right counter-depth refrigerator for your kitchen.

**YALE**  
APPLIANCE

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# Overview

There are three types of counter-depth refrigerators: freestanding, professional, and integrated.

Additionally, there are various styles within each type. This guide will help you understand all your options.



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All you need to know about the most popular standard counter-depth refrigerators



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## Professional Counter-Depth

All you need to know about professional style refrigerators



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## Integrated Counter Depth

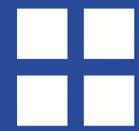
All you need to know about integrated counter-depth refrigerators



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## How to Buy

How to buy products by brand, features, reliability, and value.



# What's New

New technologies and products in the refrigerator world

CAFE  
DISTINCT BY DESIGN



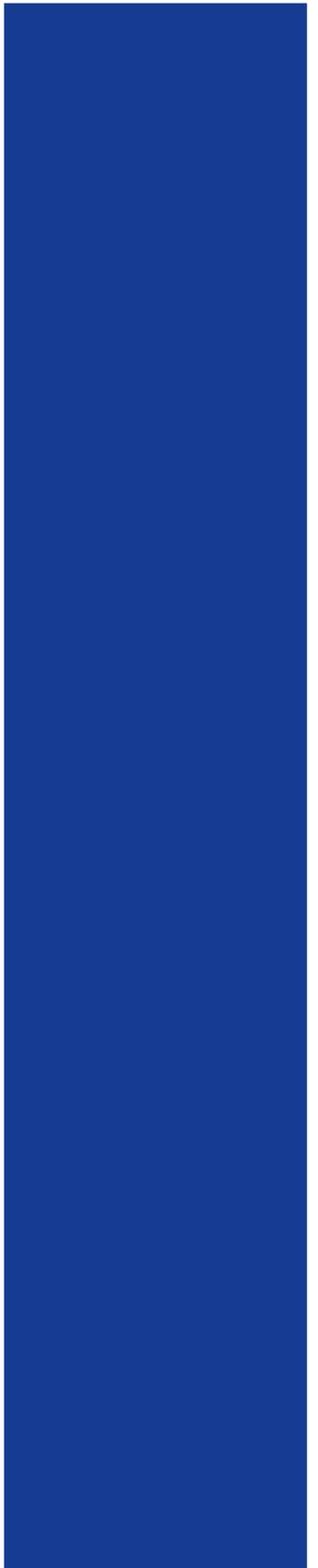
# LG Counter-Depth MAX Refrigerator

The LG Counter-Depth MAX French door refrigerator is 26.5 cubic feet with six different models.

Choosing between a standard-depth and counter-depth refrigerator is no longer necessary with this larger option.



**The LG Counter-  
Depth MAX French  
Door Refrigerator**

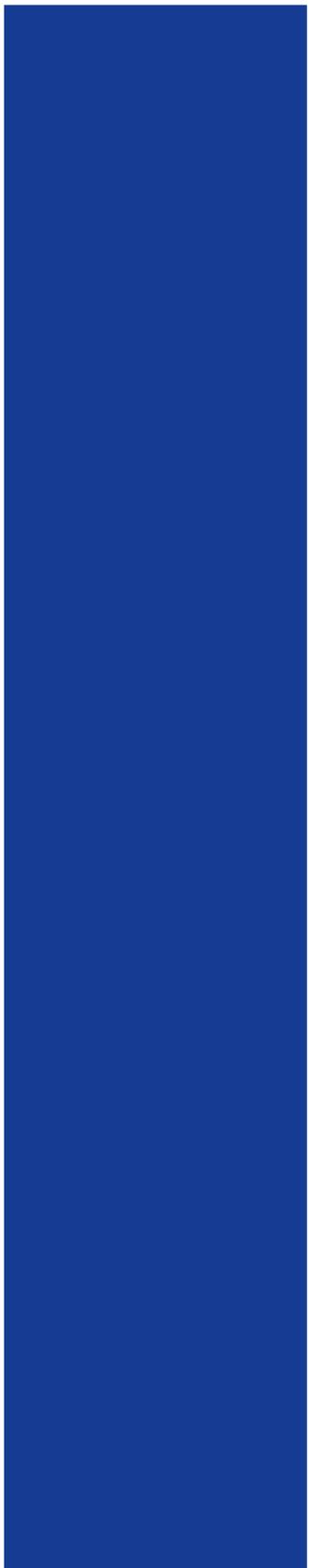


# Samsung Bespoke FamilyHub Refrigerator

The latest Samsung Bespoke FamilyHub refrigerator, available in 2025, will be able to display photos on its front panel.

Instead of displaying a stainless front, you could decorate your refrigerator with things you love, such as pictures of your family, memories of your last vacation, or a bottle of wine.

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# Refrigerator Technology

Many refrigerators have two evaporators or compressors to keep the warmer air of the refrigerator from commingling with the frozen air of the freezer.

A few have ethylene filters to prevent gasses from spoiling foods to contaminate other foods in your refrigerator.

We tested different refrigerators with fruit and vegetables over four weeks. You can see the results by clicking the link below.

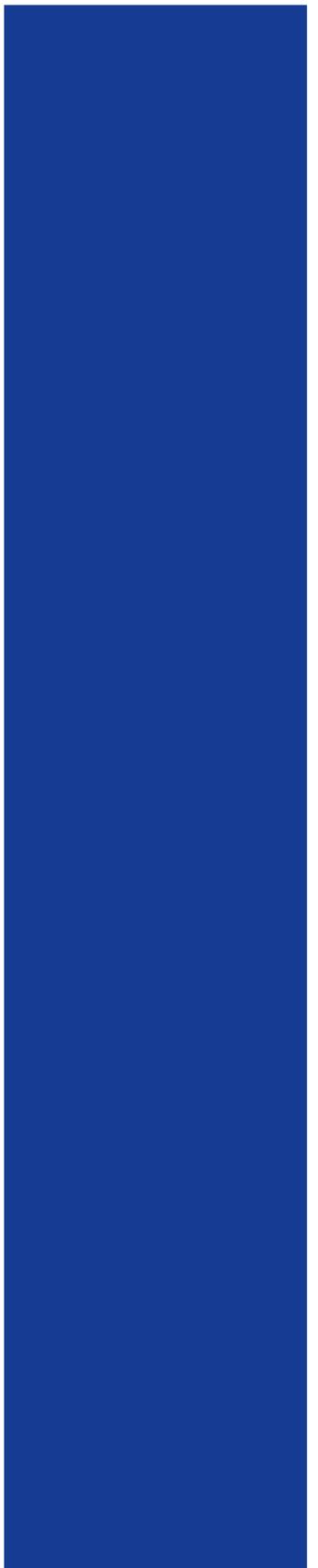


# Ice, Ice Baby

Some refrigerators now have ice makers that produce different types of ice.

LG refrigerators can make Craft Ice—slow-melting spheres that are great for cocktails and fine spirits.

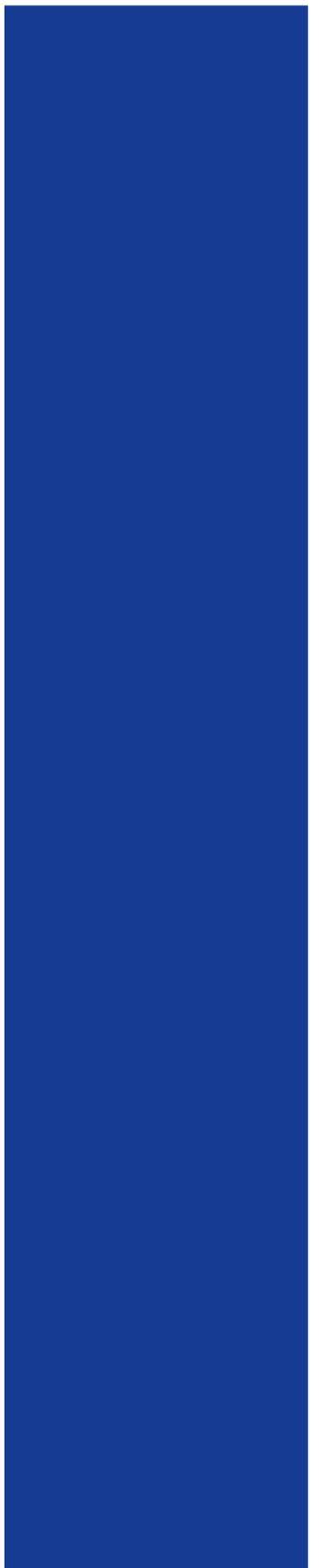
Thermador refrigerators offer Diamond Ice, which also melts slowly and has a unique shape.



# New Finishes

You have several options for a custom look or color. For example, a True refrigerator offers 14 finishes, six hinge options, and glass doors for a modern look. BlueStar has 1,000 color options to choose from.

Café Appliances offers five finishes and four handle options for a personalized touch at a lower cost.



# New Drawers

Thermador and SKS now offer larger refrigerators with multiple drawers, two ice makers, and a convertible refrigerator-freezer drawer.

However, the overall height differs between the two: the Thermador refrigerator stands at 6'7", while the SKS model is slightly shorter at 6'3".

Thermador is available in 36-, 42-, and 48-inch widths, while SKS comes in 36- and 48-inch models.





# Refrigerator Problems



# Problems

While refrigerators have become more efficient, they are also more prone to failure.

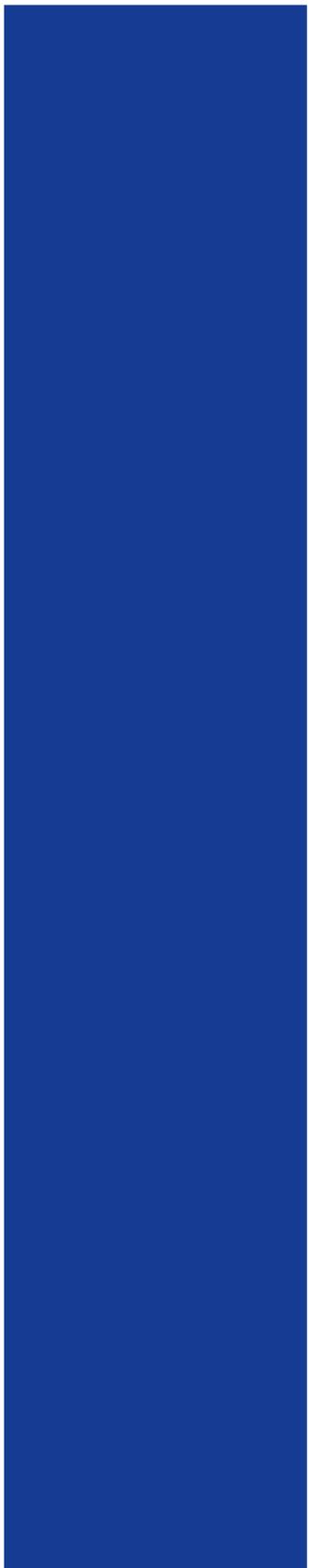
One common issue with French door counter-depth refrigerators is their ice makers, which can cause leaks.

**Sending a frozen cube through a French-door refrigerator is still an issue.**

Over time, impurities in water can build up in an ice maker, reducing water flow and scaling up on integral components



**Most Reliable  
Counter-Depth  
Refrigerators**



# Delivering a Large Refrigerator

It's great that you're taking the time to learn about the features of these refrigerators.

Once you're done, make sure to check reviews of local stores in your area.

Keep in mind, some of these refrigerators can weigh up to 800 pounds, so it's important to choose a delivery service you can trust.



**How to Avoid the 4 Biggest Appliance Delivery Nightmares**



Education Station



# Standard Counter-Depth



# Counter-Depth Refrigerators

A regular counter-depth refrigerator is a shallow, budget-friendly option compared to professional or integrated types.

It comes in various configurations like bottom freezer, side-by-side, and French door, with capacities ranging from 20 to 26.5 Cu. Ft. Stainless steel is recommended, as the thick doors don't suit paneling well.

**Widths:** 24", 30", 33" and 36"

**Brands:** LG Studio, Bosch, GE, KitchenAid, Whirlpool, Samsung, LG, Electrolux, SKS, Blomberg, Fisher & Paykel, Maytag, and Frigidaire

**Price:** \$1,700 - \$3,800



# Side-by-Side Refrigerators

Side-by-side refrigerators used to be the standard luxury style until French-door refrigerators became more popular.

Side-by-side refrigerators have made a minor comeback because of the larger freezer space.



# French Door Refrigerators

A French door is a side-by-side refrigerator with a pull-out bottom freezer.

It has proportionally more refrigerator space and has better lateral storage for bigger trays and platters.

Many French door refrigerators have a door within the door to easily access milk, juice, and condiments.

 **The Best Counter-  
Depth Refrigerators**

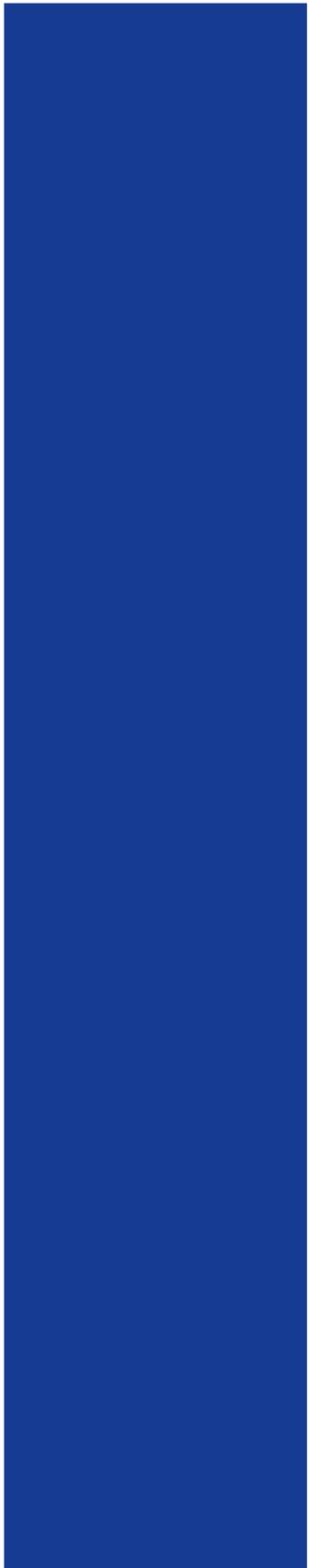


# Double Drawer French Door Refrigerators

to the French door, just with another drawer, and is the newest refrigerator style available.

The second drawer will be either freezer or refrigerator depending on the brand.

The best-selling counter-depth refrigerator brands are Samsung, GE, and LG.



# 4 Door Refrigerators

You can buy many four-door refrigerators in many brands like Samsung, LG, Beko, Whirlpool, and Haier.

You can choose refrigerator or freezer in the right-hand freezer compartment and swap as needed.



# Bottom Mount

Bottom mount counter-depth refrigerators have been replaced with the French door style. It's still a popular option for professional refrigeration.

Available in larger capacities and easy access to fruits and vegetables are the main benefits.



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# Side-by-Side vs. French Door

French doors currently outsell side-by-sides and other bottom mounts by about 15 to 1. Better refrigeration space and a trendy appearance would be the main reasons. However, side-by-side refrigerators have more freezer space.





# KITCHEN EXAMPLES

Bosch French Door counter-depth Refrigerator at Yale Appliance Hanover



# KITCHEN EXAMPLES

Samsung counter-depth Refrigerator at Yale Appliance Hanover

A long, narrow aisle in a kitchen showroom. On both sides are rows of stainless steel kitchen appliances, including refrigerators and freezers. The floor is made of light-colored wood-look planks. The ceiling is dark with recessed lighting. A blue semi-transparent overlay covers the left side of the image, containing a white diagonal slash and the text "Professional Counter-Depth".

**Professional Counter-Depth**

# Professional Refrigerators

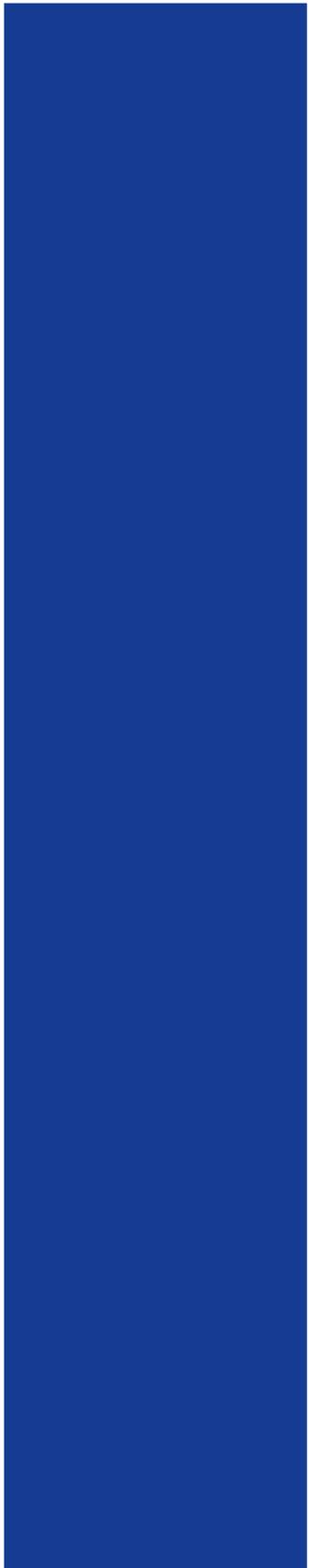
Professional counter-depths are characterized by their restaurant appearance and 84" height with the compressors on the top of the unit.

The Pro looks good in stainless or can be covered with custom panels.

**Widths:** 30", 36", 42" and 48". Thirty-six inches is the most popular size.

**Brands:** Sub-Zero, Monogram, True, Viking, BlueStar, JennAir, and KitchenAid

**Price:** \$10,000 - \$20,000



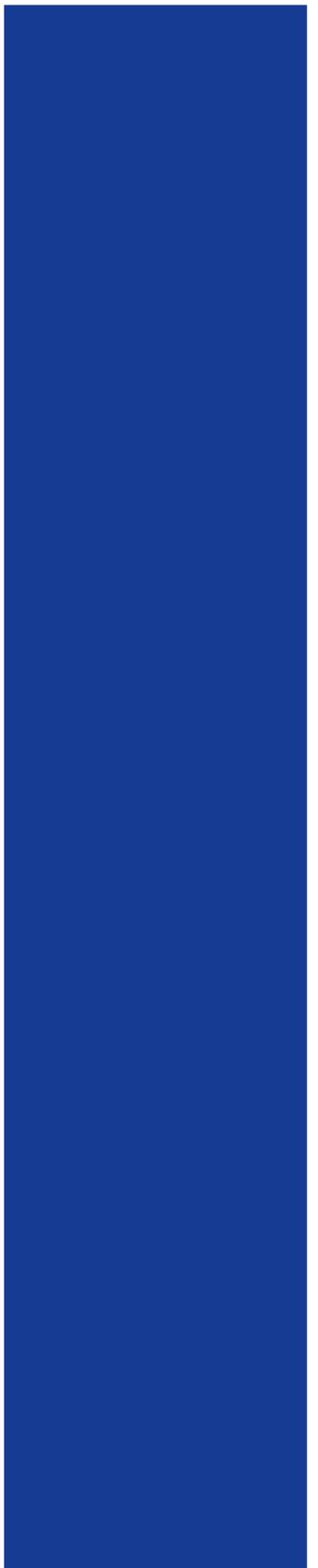
# Sub-Zero

Sub-Zero was the first to make counter-depth refrigerators with features like a vacuum seal to keep air out and two compressors to maintain steady temperatures.

The magnetic crispers help keep fruits and vegetables fresh, and a new system introduced last year further improved temperature and humidity control.

Sub-Zero is also the only brand with a special filter that slows down food spoilage.

**One thing to note:** Sub-Zero refrigerators don't come in any color options.



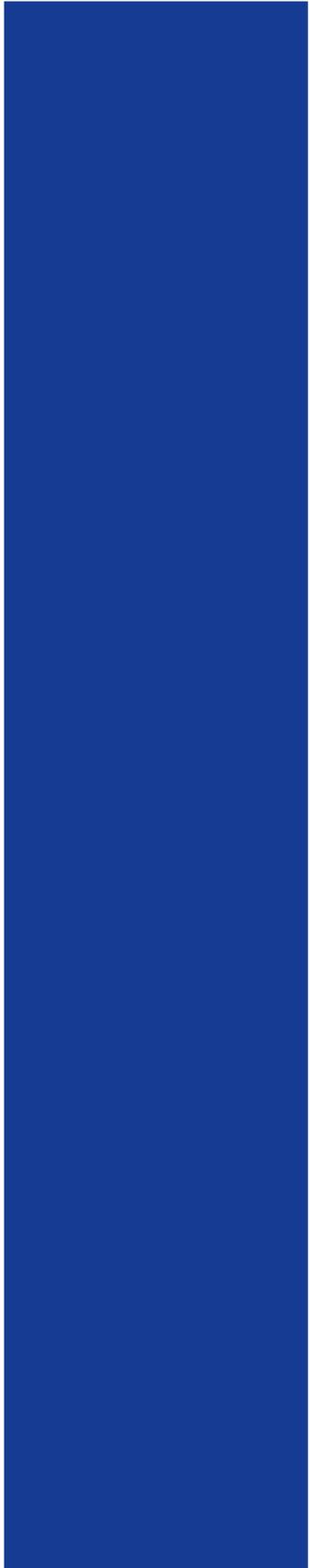
# True

True is the largest family-owned commercial refrigeration company based in St Louis.

Most of the components are made by True in their 1,000,000-square-foot factory.

True is a solid refrigerator in all stainless with heavy glass bins.

**True offers 14 color options and six hinge styles for a unique kitchen look, but custom panel fronts are not available for True refrigerators.**



# BlueStar

BlueStar is another American, family-owned company based in Pennsylvania.

**All BlueStar refrigerators are solid metal and are designed to fit a commercial cookie sheet.**

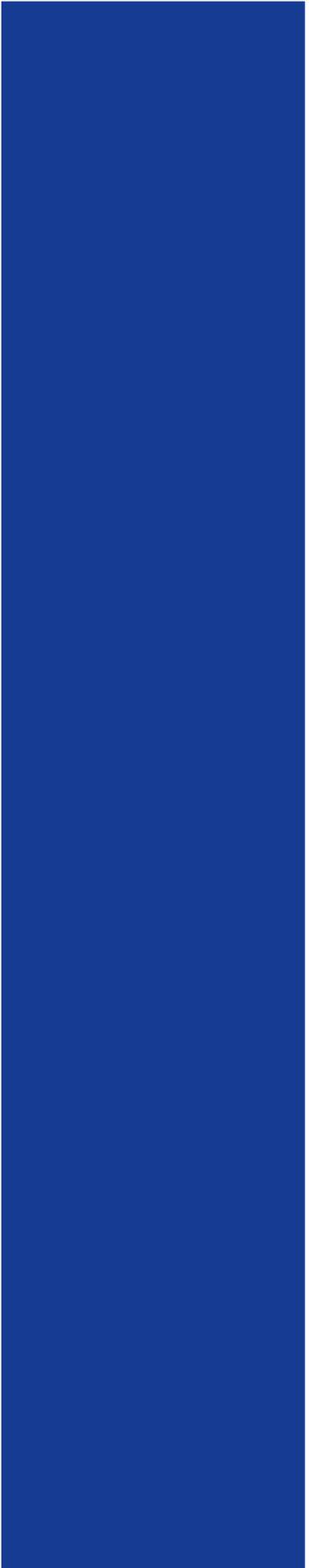
BlueStar has 1,000 colors and ten trims to choose from in a BlueStar refrigerator.



# Monogram

Monogram offers some good features, including cold air ports under each shelf, LED lighting, and a quick freeze/thaw bin in the refrigerator.

With its more reasonable price and rebates of up to \$4,500, Monogram is a solid value alternative.



# Viking

Viking is the other marquee name in professional refrigerators. 15 years ago they bought the tooling to build refrigeration from Amana.

The early Viking products were problematic, and they have struggled to improve quality recently. In 2013, Viking was purchased by Middleby Corp.

Viking has its "Plasmacluster" which uses ions to kill bacteria and mold inside the fridge and also features a 3-year warranty.



**Sub-Zero vs. Viking**  
**Counter-Depth**  
**Refrigerators**



# JennAir

JennAir is the upscale appliance division of Whirlpool Corp. They have pumped \$300 million into this brand over the last several years, all in cooking.

They have become incredibly promotional with their refrigerators, giving away dishwashers and rebates with qualifying purchases.

Their best piece is the 42" French door, pictured left.





# KITCHEN EXAMPLES

Sub-Zero kitchen with professional refrigeration at Yale Appliance in Hanover



# KITCHEN EXAMPLES

True kitchen with professional refrigeration at Yale Appliance in Hanover



# KITCHEN EXAMPLES

BlueStar kitchen with professional refrigeration at Yale Appliance in Hanover



# Integrated Counter-Depth



# Integrated Refrigeration

An integrated refrigerator fits flush the cabinet and becomes indistinguishable from the cabinet itself. This style needs a minimum of 25" depth.

In contrast, both the doors of regular cabinet depth and professional counter-depth will protrude outside the cabinet.

Although you can buy stainless inserts, the integrated looks best with custom panels.

**Widths:** 18", 24", 27", 30", 36", 42", and 48"

**Brands:** Thermador, Gaggenau, Sub-Zero, Miele, Liebherr, JennAir, and Bosch.

**Price:** \$6,000 to \$17,000 (but you may need two units).



# Integrated: Columns vs. Regular



**Regular:** You can buy a regular unit with refrigerator and freezer, typically at 30" and 36" widths.

**Columns:** Columns, or separate all freezers and all refrigerators, can be purchased at 18", 24", and 30" widths. You would typically buy two columns to complete a kitchen.



# Bosch, Gaggenau, and Thermador

These three brands are part of the BSH appliance group.

Thermador offers the most variety, including larger 42- and 48-inch models, columns, and the only 36" wide French door integrated refrigerator.

They also feature stainless-steel interiors, improved shelving, and better filters

Gaggenau has stainless-steel interiors but is more expensive, while Bosch is more affordable with fewer options.

This group leads in integrated refrigerators, thanks to early marketing of columns and strong rebate offers.



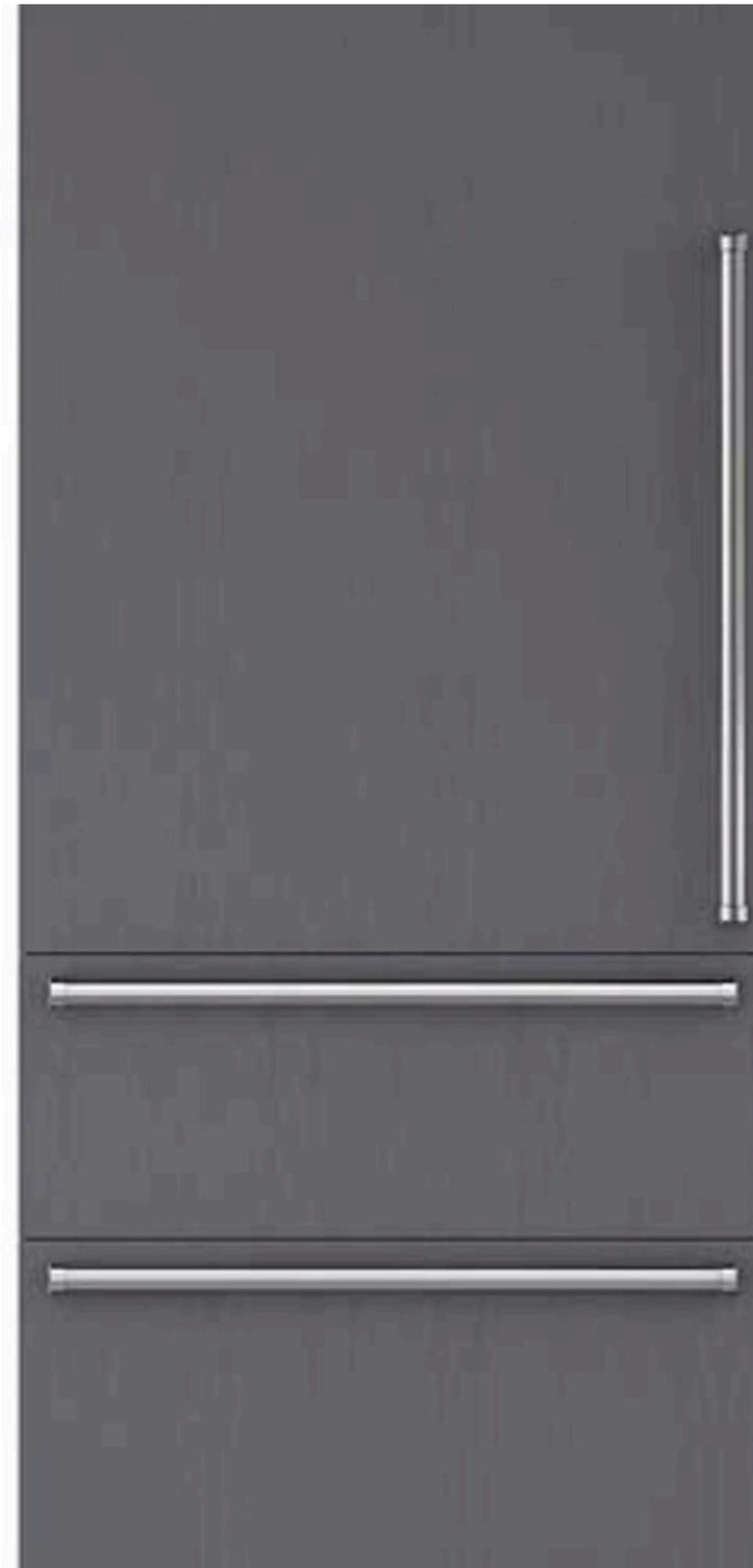
# Sub-Zero

Sub-Zero has launched a new series of built-in refrigerators in sizes ranging from 18" to 36".

The new series features air purification, filtering, and internal water dispensing, similar to the professional series. It also includes integrated air and water purifying systems.

Sub-Zero has introduced their new split climate system, which provides separate airflow for the crispers and the main refrigerator, ensuring optimal temperature and humidity control.

Additionally, the shelving is coated with nanotechnology to prevent spills from spreading.



**Sub-Zero vs. Thermador  
Refrigeration**

# Miele

Miele is a family-owned company, like Bosch and Thermador, with refrigerators made in partnership with BSH.

Miele offers unique lighting, simple controls, and the MasterChef system, which helps keep fruits and vegetables fresh.

Their 36-inch French door integrated refrigerator is one of the most popular in its category.

Thermador, on the other hand, has moved to a double-drawer design for this size.



# JennAir

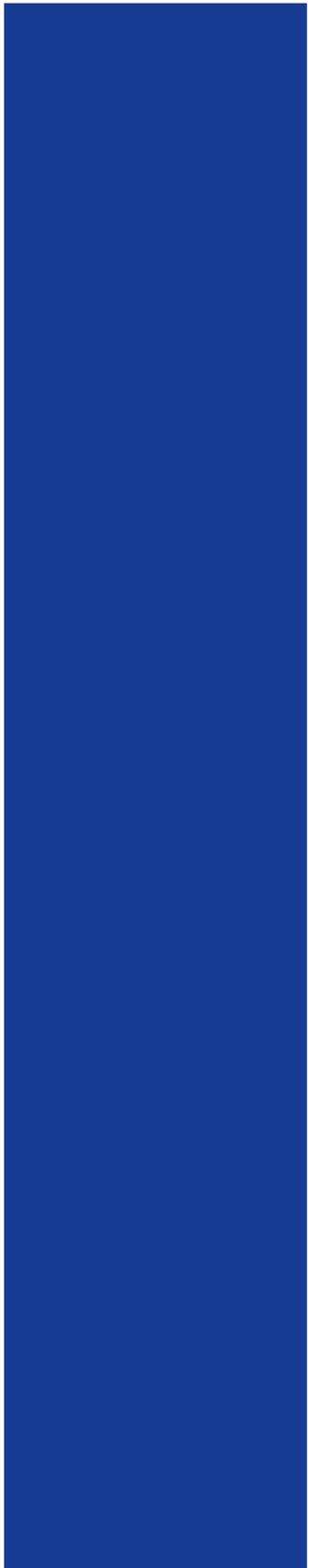
JennAir was the first with Wi-Fi and now offers the most zones of cooling with three zones in the refrigerator and two in the freezer.



# Signature Kitchen Suite

SKS is the premium brand of LG. It features the largest capacity for integrated refrigerators.

Check out their 48-inch or 36-inch refrigerators with multiple drawers for a unique design.



# Fisher & Paykel

Fisher & Paykel offers a range of affordable 36-inch integrated refrigerators.

ActiveSmart technology is their hallmark, with sensors and a microprocessor ensuring even temperatures.





# KITCHEN EXAMPLES

Sub-Zero and Wolf Kitchen at Yale Appliance Hanover



# KITCHEN EXAMPLES

Gaggenau Kitchen at Yale Appliance Hanover



# KITCHEN EXAMPLES

Fisher & Paykel Kitchen at Yale Appliance Hanover



# How to Buy

How to choose products by product category



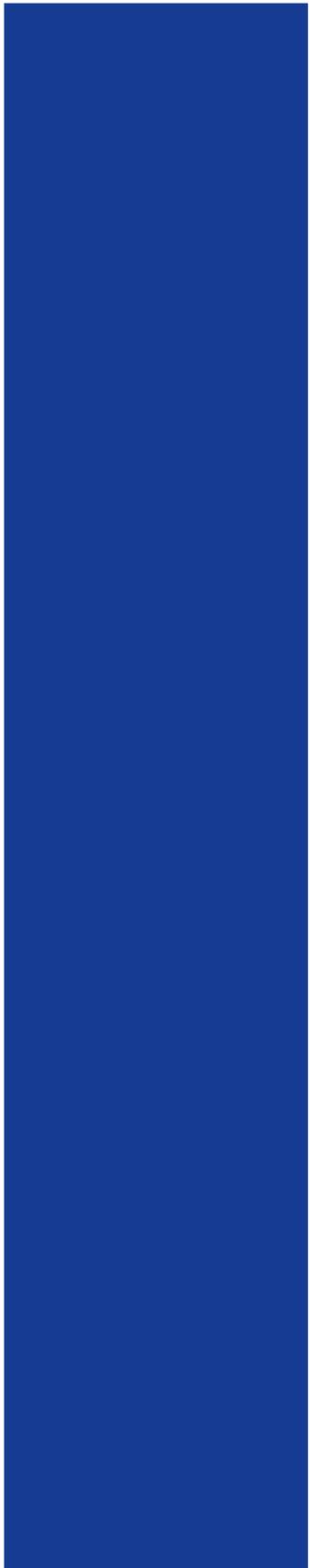
# How to Buy

To buy a counter-depth refrigerator, consider budget-friendly regular models over pricier integrated or professional types.

Popular brands like GE, LG, and Bosch offer good options, with LG's Counter-Depth MAX French door model being a notable choice.

Professional refrigerators offer a distinct look contrasting with cabinetry, often in stainless-steel finishes, with brands like Sub-Zero, True, and BlueStar being top choices.

Integrated refrigerators, designed to blend with cabinetry, are best sourced from Thermador, Miele, Bosch, SKS, or Sub-Zero.



Video And Podcast  
Series

# APPLIANCE 101

Check out our **video and podcast series** to gain insight into the best brands, new trends, and emerging technology that will help you achieve the renovation of your dreams.



[Click here for our  
Appliance 101 Video  
series](#)



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# Yale Appliance Webinars

Want to know how to start your kitchen?

How about learning from others' mistakes or about appliances you shouldn't buy?

Check out a [Yale Webinar](#) for deep dives on appliances, design, mistakes, and more.

Over 100,000 people have watched a Yale Webinar.



**Yale Appliance**  
**Webinars**



# How to Protect Yourself

You may think appliances will be an easy purchase.

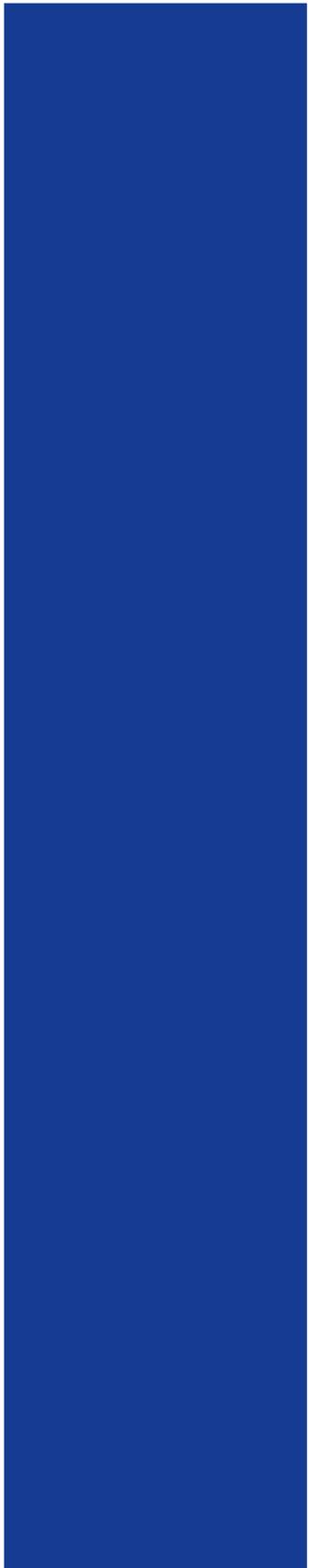
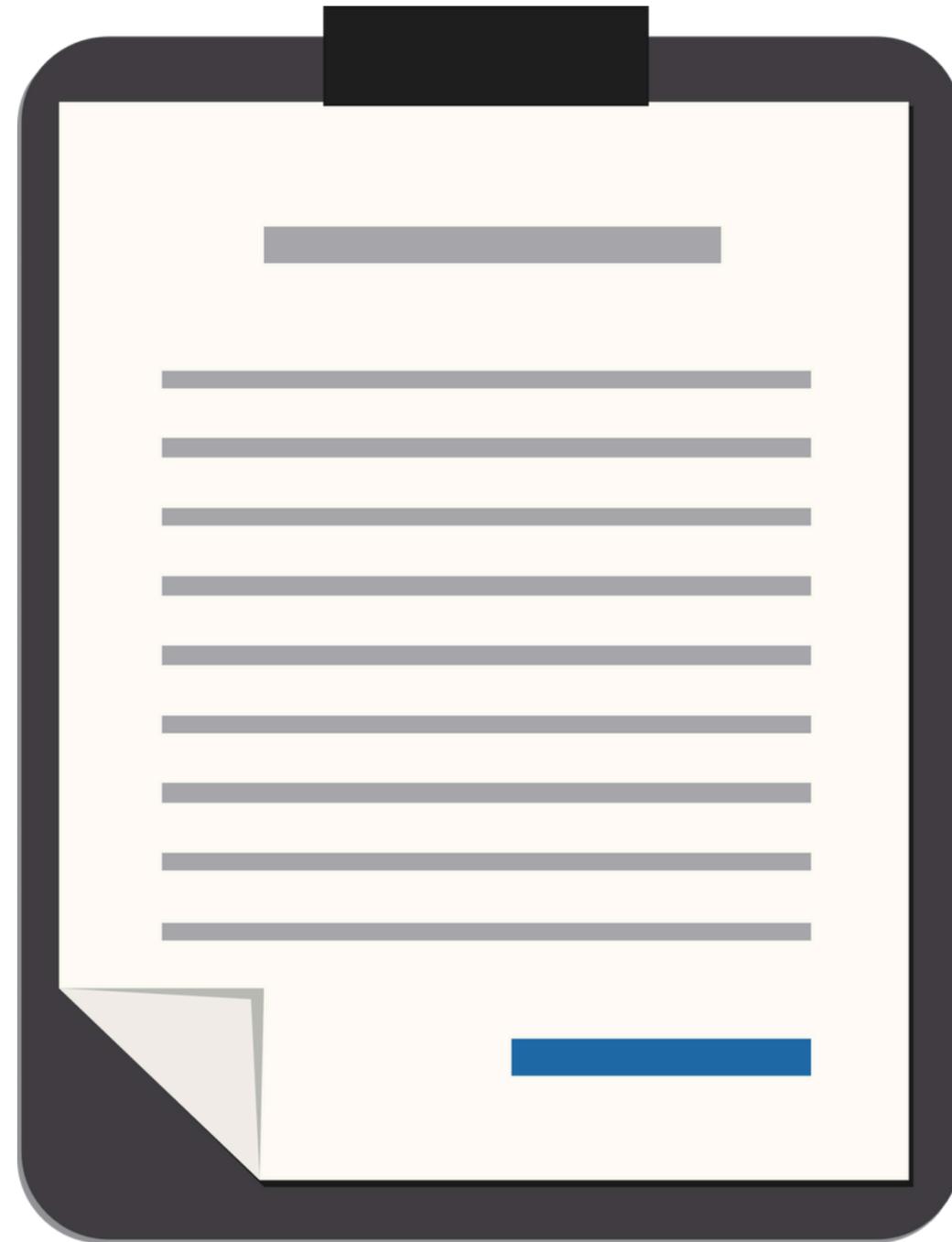
Unfortunately, with delivery, installation, damage, and the increasing amount of service, it can be a stressful ordeal.

Read the articles below to protect yourself and make the best buying decisions.

Remember, you have the most leverage before you buy anything.



**Why Doesn't Every  
Brand Offer Service**



# Wisdom of Crowds

Buy where you're comfortable.

There are tons of stores and products, but a limited number of consumers.

Check review sites like Yelp, CitySearch, Google and the Better Business Bureau before you purchase.

Remember, any store can sell an appliance; the biggest issues are shipping and service.



# Appliance Delivery Checklist

Our free checklist will help you avoid a delivery nightmare by teaching you what to ask your appliance dealer.

Delivery issues are a major cause of dissatisfaction. Be prepared.

In the Delivery Checklist, you'll learn:

- How to choose a dealer with top-notch delivery
- Questions to identify a quality delivery team
- The importance of online reviews for your appliance search



[Get the Free Appliance Delivery Checklist](#)

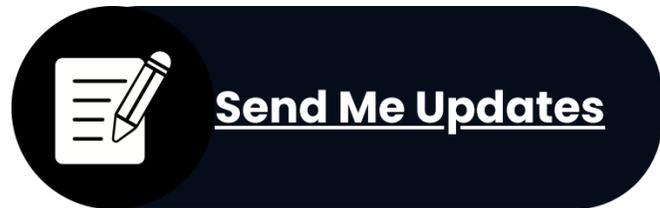


# Want to Learn More?

Want more tips, tricks, reliability statistics, and information about kitchen appliances sent directly to your inbox? Sign up below.

We do not sell your email to anyone for any reason – ever.

We don't spam or promote. Over 100,000 people have found value in Yale Appliance emails.





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# About Us

Yale Appliance has been serving the Boston area for over 100 years and operates six showrooms: in Boston, Framingham, Hanover, Hyannis, Nantucket, and Norton.

We have the largest independent service and repair department in New England, staffed with over 40 people.

Our sales team has an average of 10 years of experience, and our staff chef offers cooking demonstrations to help you make the most of your new appliances

# Visit Our Stores

Schedule a showroom visit to meet with our team and discuss your appliance project.

Choose a time that works for your schedule.



**Schedule a showroom  
appointment**



# Contact Us

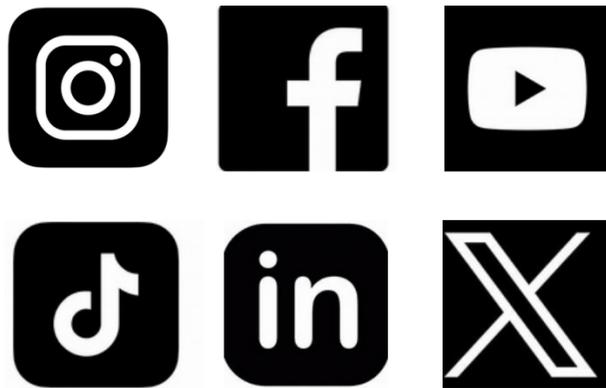
## Phone & Email

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## Social Media



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### Hyannis

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### Hanover

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### Norton

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5 Bayberry Ct